

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A closure assembly for an opening of a drinking vessel, comprising:

a cap including a hollow mouthpiece protruding from the cap and having a first aperture at a free end of the mouthpiece through which liquid in the vessel can flow out upon application of suction to the mouthpiece;

a support located inside the mouthpiece and having at least one second aperture that, in conjunction with the first aperture, defines a path for flow of the liquid out of the vessel; and

a valve member comprising a resiliently deformable diaphragm located between the mouthpiece and the support, the diaphragm having ~~an~~ a third aperture in the path and normally bearing resiliently against the support to close the third aperture ~~in the diaphragm~~ with the support and to close the second aperture with the diaphragm, thereby blocking the path, wherein, upon the application of suction at the mouthpiece, the diaphragm is deformed and moves away from the support so that the ~~aperture in the diaphragm is~~ second and third apertures are opened to permit the flow of the liquid out of the vessel.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The closure assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the diaphragm is concave and the support has a concave part in which the diaphragm is ~~located~~ received and against which the diaphragm resiliently bears when suction is not applied at the mouthpiece.

4. (Currently Amended) The closure assembly as claimed in claim 3, wherein the ~~diaphragm~~ third aperture is positioned centrally in the diaphragm, and the support part

includes, at a periphery, a plurality of the second apertures, surrounding the third aperture ~~in the diaphragm.~~

5. (Previously Presented) The closure assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the diaphragm is located by the support at a position immediately behind the first aperture.

6. (Currently Amended) The closure assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support is hollow and is positioned co-axially inside the mouthpiece, each of the support and the ~~mouth-piece-mouthpiece~~ having ~~an upper~~ a protruding end including the second and first apertures, respectively.

7. (Currently Amended) The closure assembly as claimed in claim 6, wherein the valve member includes a tubular sleeve partially closed at one ~~an end that provides, the end being~~ the diaphragm, and the sleeve being compressed-located between the mouthpiece and the support.

8. (Currently Amended) The closure assembly as claimed in claim 7, wherein the support includes a tubular portion and the sleeve of the valve member is mounted on and encloses the tubular portion of the support.

9. (Currently Amended) The closure assembly as claimed in claim 6, wherein the support includes a peripheral flange located in the cap, outside the mouthpiece, and engageable with the cap for locating the part of the support including the second aperture inside the mouthpiece.

10. (Currently Amended) The closure assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cap includes at least one breather hole, and the valve member includes a resiliently deformable ~~part-flange~~ which normally bears resiliently against and closes the breather hole and, upon the application of suction at the mouthpiece, the ~~resilient~~ resiliently deformable ~~part-flange~~ is deformed and moves away from the breather hole, opening the

breather hole to equalize pressure at opposite sides of the ~~diaphragm~~ resiliently deformable flange.

11. (Canceled)

12. (New) A closure assembly for an opening of a drinking vessel, comprising:
a cap having a hollow mouthpiece protruding from the cap and having a first aperture at a free end of the mouthpiece through which liquid in the vessel can flow out upon application of suction to the mouthpiece;

a generally tubular support located inside the mouthpiece and having an end including at least one second aperture that, in conjunction with the first aperture, defines a path for flow of the liquid out of the vessel; and

a generally tubular valve member comprising a sleeve mounted on the support, between the support and the mouthpiece, and having a resiliently deformable diaphragm at one end, the diaphragm being located between the mouthpiece and the support and having a third aperture in the path, the diaphragm normally bearing resiliently against the support to close the third aperture with the support and to close the second aperture with the diaphragm, thereby blocking the path, wherein, upon the application of suction at the mouthpiece, the diaphragm is deformed and moves away from the support so that the second and third aperture s are open to permit the flow of the liquid out of the vessel.

13. (New) The closure assembly as claimed in claim 12, wherein the cap includes at least one breather hole, and the valve member includes a peripheral resiliently deformable flange extending from the sleeve, the resiliently deformable flange normally bearing resiliently against and closing the breather hole and, upon the application of suction at the mouthpiece, the resiliently deformable flange is deformed and moves away from the breather hole, opening the breather hole to equalize pressure at opposite sides of the resiliently deformable flange.

14. (New) The closure assembly as claimed in claim 13, wherein the support includes a relatively rigid peripheral flange located within the cap and outside the mouthpiece,

the valve member includes a base peripherally extending from the sleeve, the resiliently deformable flange being disposed intermediate the diaphragm and the base, and

the peripheral flange of the support supports the base of the valve member within the cap.

15. (New) The closure assembly as claimed in claim 14 wherein the base of the valve member and the peripheral flange of the support include at least one aligned hole providing fluid communication from outside the vessel to inside the vessel through the breather hole when the resiliently deformable flange moves away from the breather hole.

16. (New) The closure assembly as claimed in claim 12, wherein the diaphragm is concave and the support has a concave part in which the diaphragm is received and against which the diaphragm resiliently bears when suction is not applied at the mouthpiece.

17. (New) The closure assembly as claimed in claim 16, wherein the third aperture is positioned centrally in the diaphragm, and the support part includes at a periphery a plurality of the second apertures, surrounding the third aperture.

18. (New) The closure assembly as claimed in claim 12, wherein the diaphragm is located by the support at a position immediately behind the first aperture.

19. (New) The closure assembly as claimed in claim 12, wherein the support is positioned co-axially inside the mouthpiece, each of the support and the mouthpiece having a protruding end including the second and third apertures, respectively.

20. (New) The closure assembly as claimed in claim 14, wherein the base of the valve member includes an internal groove receiving an outer edge of the peripheral flange and for engaging a rim of the vessel.

21. (New) The closure assembly as claimed in claim 10, wherein
the support includes a relatively rigid peripheral flange located within the cap and outside the mouthpiece,
the valve member includes a peripherally extending base, the resiliently deformable flange being disposed intermediate the diaphragm and the base,
the peripheral flange of the support supports the base of the valve member within the cap, and
the base of the valve member and the peripheral flange of the support include at least one aligned hole providing fluid communication from outside the vessel to inside the vessel through the breather hole when the resiliently deformable flange moves away from the breather hole.